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JAZZ FESTIVAL NOTES

Liberating sound of Khaled

TODAY

COMPLEXE DESJARDINS

If you've ever wondered about the relationship between musician and instrument, then you might want to check out the up-close-and-personal ateliers at the jazz fest's first Montreal Musicians and Musical Instruments Show, at Complexe Desjardins. Today there are trumpeters **Terence Blanchard** (4:30 p.m.) and **Paolo Fresu** (6 p.m.), and saxophonist **David Sanchez** (9 p.m.). At 7 p.m. **René Gilbert** tells you how to learn to play guitar in a hour, while at 9 p.m. festival hero **Pat Metheny** holds forth at the Cinquième Salle of Place des Arts. For info: www.mmmis.ca.

JUAN RODRIGUEZ

LAST NIGHT

THÉÂTRE MAISONNEUVE

Toots Thielemans, the 83-year-old harmonica wizard whose duet concert last night with pianist **Kenny Werner** is reviewed on Page D2, has inspired everyone from Dizzy Gillespie to Ella Fitzgerald to Sesame Street (he played its theme) to ... John Lennon? "I met the Beatles because of Lennon," he recalled yesterday. "When they passed through Brussels in 1963 he asked to see me. I had played a solid-body Rickenbacker guitar when I accompanied (pianist) George Shearing (in the 1950s). He told me that when he saw one of Shearing's album covers with me and that guitar, it made him choose the Rickenbacker." The guitar that Toots played so sweetly became synonymous with Lennon's tough rock side.

JUAN RODRIGUEZ

TUESDAY

METROPOLIS

There was not an empty seat in the house, and barely room to stand, as 2,000 fans packed the Metropolis Tuesday night to hear **Khaled**, the Algerian-born King of Rai. They waved Algerian flags, and he draped one over his shoulders, as he sang his hits, known and adored by mainly North African expatriates. The 10-piece backup in the first set sounded overheated – you could barely make out the lone oud. After a 3½-hour concert in Central Park in New York City Monday, his voice sounded strained. But Khaled is such a liberating force that it made little difference as he went through a set list of 30 songs, including his adored Love to the People.

IRWIN BLOCK

Does sold-out really mean sold-out? Jazz fest organizers released extra tickets Tuesday for each of **Daniel Lanois's** two Metropolis shows, at 6 and 9:30 p.m. tomorrow night. Both concerts had been declared sold out early in the game. According to a festival spokesperson, the Metropolis will be a seated venue for the Lanois shows, reducing its usual 2,300-person capacity to 1,100. The new tickets – 200 per show – are standing-room-only. If there are any left this morning, you'll find them at the Spectrum or Metropolis box offices. You can also phone (514) 908-9090 or go to www.ticketpro.ca.

BERNARD PERUSSE

OUTDOORS AT THE FREE SHOWS

Though we deplore cheerleading in all its relentless optimism, can we please give it up for the big free outdoor show?

Against a backdrop of impending meteorological apocalypse, the 38 inspirational members of **Champion et ses G-Strings**, the heroic festival tech team, event top brass Alain Simard and Laurent Saulnier, and thousands upon thousands of Montrealers and friends, proved beyond the merest shadow of a shadow of doubt what this city is made of.

In its simplest terms, it is made of indestructible party material, ready to ride out the storm with the aid of organically composed house music, roof-top go-go girls, gospel singers, moisture resistant video clips, beach balls winged from the upper reaches of Complexe Desjardins, and the frisson of rain potentially soaking enough electronics to fry a solid stretch of Ste. Catherine St.

Other, less quantifiable qualities include a refusal to take no for an answer. Everyone, from the garbage detail and security squad, through production visionary François Berubé, unstoppable Champion alter ego Maxime Morin, his fearless cast and crew, and the crowd that answered the call, turned a potential disappointment/disaster into one of the most memorable nights in festival history.

JOHN GRIFFIN

Blanche Baillargeon, the 22-year-old bassist for Champion et ses G-Strings, is the daughter of filmmaker Paule Baillargeon and bassist-composer Yves Laferrière, former leader of legendary Montreal '70s prog-rock group Contraction. "It was like a generational epiphany for me," said the proud father, 60. "I thought Blanche and (singer) **Betty Bonifassi** were pivotal in keeping the group together. Blanche had that sensuous touch while Betty's voice was like thunder. Musically it tended to float because it's meant for dancing. It's electro-jazz, using the last term loosely. I like the idea of DJs playing with musicians; it expands the horizons of rock and jazz. It's also nice that so many more women are involved in music than was the case in my day, when there were practically none." He paused and said, "Especially if they're good-looking. But I don't want to be accused of being a biased chauvinist."

JUAN RODRIGUEZ

LAÏKA

While the jazz-fest site emptied quick-fast-in-a-hurry after Champion et la gang played their last notes, just before midnight on Tuesday, the festivities moved up the street. People were spilling out the sliding glass doors at cool St. Laurent Blvd. café-club Laïka, Champ's fave hangout, where an impromptu after-party was taking place.

Cheers erupted as Champion, singer **Betty Bonifassi** and posse arrived just after 1 a.m., and hugs and beers were shared by all. Big-show instigator Laurent Saulnier (the fest's vice-president of programming) was there, smiling wide in his CHAMPION T-shirt. And one had to marvel at the top-down enthusiasm when fest co-founder André Ménard entered, tapping media relations director Myriam Achard on the shoulder to proudly show her the first editions of the next day's papers.

Amid the bubbly buzz (a bottle of champagne was brought out by Laïka chief Bruno Ricciardi), someone let slip the scoop: Champion et ses G-Strings will get another chance to dazzle at this year's fest. The group will play a closing-night free show, Sunday at Metropolis, after Pat Metheny's outdoor finale. Start time will be late, sometime between 11 and midnight.

T'CHA DUNLEVY

MONDAY

SPECTRUM

Most unlikely **Bill Frisell** fan? Quebec rocker **Éric Lapointe**, spotted distractedly tapping along on the bar in the Spectrum lobby on Monday, as roots guitar virtuoso Frisell expanded notions of jazz on stage inside.

T'CHA DUNLEVY

JOHN MORSTAD THE GAZETTE
Khaled draped an Algerian flag over his shoulders at Metropolis Tuesday.

Jarreau | Caught in a three-way crossover

CONTINUED FROM D1

Jarreau expressed concern that the disc hasn't been marketed or played to the people who would take to it. "Jazz people still haven't discovered this new CD. If they have, something in their minds is blocking their desire to comment on it – even if it's to say, 'That was for s—, Jarreau,' " he said. "Nobody's even commenting on it, (although) live, the response to the things we are doing from the disc is just heartwarming and grrrreat!" he said, chortling.

Part of the reason Accentuate the Positive has failed to find an audience is that the marketplace really doesn't know what to do with Jarreau. He's the only vocalist to have won Grammy awards in three different categories: jazz, pop and R&B.

The three-way crossover has been a double-edged sword. "Part of why I stayed around so long is that if there haven't been jazzers buying my music, there have been pop and R&B people buying my music," he said. Of course, in this tightly formatted music world, where do you find Al Jarreau albums on the shelves or on the air? Damned if he knows – and that's where the jack-of-all-trades factor becomes an albatross.

"If you've done some work that you think should get some attention at a certain kind of radio programming level in R&B, and their notion is that you are a jazzer, that pre-conceived notion prejudices (people)," he said. "That, for sure, happens in any one of those areas I perform in."

Jarreau said that with any encouragement at all, he'll continue spreading the jazz-evergreen gospel he began to record on Accentuate the Positive, perhaps with a big band next time out – "just so there can be a contemporary example of a singer standing up in front of a band and nailing that s—, as good as Frank, as good as Joe Williams. I ought to do that because I can," he said.

"Obviously, I love the music," he said. "It's a special period of writing, man, a special period of lyric sensibility and how the lyric connects to the melody and how the melody is embedded in chord changes that tug at your heart in a way that either makes you romantic or melancholy or joyful – and that's some writing. Very special writing that doesn't get heard a lot these days."

Al Jarreau and **Roberta Flack** perform tonight at Salle Wilfrid Pelletier of Place des Arts. Tickets $45.50 to $75.50. For more, call (514) 790-1245 or go to www.admission.com

bperusse@thegazette.canwest.com

AMC Experience the Difference
Matinee price for all shows until 6 pm. Advanced Ticketing available at Moviewatcher.com
FORUM 22
REBOUND (G) ✓ 12:15, 2:00, 2:45, 4:30, 5:15, 6:45, 7:30, 9:00, 9:45
BEWITCHED (G) 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 2:45, 3:45, 4:45, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:15, 9:15, 10:15
PAHELI (ENGLISH SUBTITLES) (G) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED (G) Wed 12:30, 2:05, 3:00, 4:35, 5:30, 7:05, 7:50, 9:35, 10:10 Thu 12:30, 2:05, 3:00, 4:35, 5:30, 7:50, 9:35, 10:10
HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE (HAURU NO UGOKU SHIRO) (G) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
THE PERFECT MAN (G) 1:40, 7:10
SHARK BOY AND LAVA GIRL IN 3D (G) 12:40, 3:00, 5:20
MR. & MRS. SMITH (13+) 12:15, 1:15, 3:15, 4:15, 6:15, 7:15, 8:15, 9:00, 10:00
PARINEETA (ENGLISH SUBTITLES) (G) 4:05, 9:35
CINDERELLA MAN (13+) 2:45, 3:45, 6:15, 7:00, 9:30
SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS (G) 1:15, 7:05
MAD HOT BALLROOM (G) 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 9:55
MARCH OF THE PENGUINS (LA MARCHE DE L'EMPEREUR) (G) 12:55, 3:05, 5:15, 7:40, 9:50
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN (13+) 4:00, 9:50
MYSTERIOUS SKIN (16+) 1:10, 10:10
LADIES IN LAVENDER (G) 1:55, 4:25, 7:10, 9:40
IN MY COUNTRY (G) 12:25, 2:55, 5:25, 7:55, 10:25
WALK ON WATER (LALECHET AL HAMAIM) (ENGLISH SUBTITLES) (G) 12:05, 2:35, 5:05, 7:50, 10:20
UP AND DOWN (HOREM PADEM) (13+) 2:25, 5:00, 7:35, 10:15
SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT

FAST TRACK

Rapper Lil' Kim gets jail time, $50,000 fine

NEW YORK – Grammy-winning rapper Lil' Kim was sentenced yesterday to a year and a day in prison and fined $50,000 for lying to a federal grand jury to protect friends involved in a 2001 shootout outside a Manhattan radio station. While many rappers have served time in prison, Lil' Kim, who was convicted in March, is the first big-name female artist to do so. Before the sentence was handed down, Lil' Kim spoke briefly, her voice breaking: "At the time I thought it was the right thing to do but I now know it was wrong." She also asked the judge to weigh more than just this one event. "I ask you to consider my entire life's work and not just the days in the grand jury and on the witness stand in the courtroom. I'm a God-fearing, good person." The sentence was far less than the 20-year maximum she could have received and the nearly three-year sentence prosecutors had sought. When she arrived at the courthouse yesterday, some fans were there to proclaim their support. One man's T-shirt read "Free Lil' Kim."

Cirque du Soleil in Playboy, on Tonight Show

Playboy will dedicate 10 pages plus to the Cirque du Soleil show Zumanity in its August edition. The issue will feature a number of photos and interviews with the performers, and a Q&A with Cirque founder and CEO Guy Laliberté. Zumanity performers will also be guests tonight on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno (WPTZ-5, 11:35 p.m.).

CHIP EAST REUTERS
Rapper Kimberly Jones, aka Lil' Kim, leaves the federal district court in Manhattan after being sentenced yesterday for lying to a grand jury.

Mistrial in suit over rapper's 1997 death

LOS ANGELES – A federal judge yesterday declared a mistrial in the Notorious B.I.G. wrongful death case brought by the rapper's family against the city and the Los Angeles Police Department. The judge's ruling came after she expressed concern at a hearing Tuesday that the LAPD had deliberately withheld evidence from the court. There were only three days of testimony in the trial, which began June 21 but was interrupted when an anonymous tip led to the discovery of large numbers of LAPD documents that hadn't been turned over to lawyers for the family of the rap star, shot to death in 1997. The family's lawsuit claimed that a corrupt police officer arranged to have the rapper killed at the behest of Death Row Records founder Marion (Suge) Knight, and that LAPD officials covered up the officer's involvement.

McCartney, Dion give to minefield charity

NEW YORK – Paul McCartney, Céline Dion, Maroon 5 and other music acts have donated concert tickets and special experiences in an online auction for Music Clearing Minefields, an initiative of the United Nations Association's Adopt-A-Minefield Campaign. McCartney has donated VIP tickets to his sold-out fall tour to the online auction at www.charityfolks.com. Coldplay, Meat Loaf, Avril Lavigne, Elvis Costello, Brian Wilson, Jack Johnson, B.B. King and others also have donated concert tickets and "meet-and-greets."

No charge for Clark

SACRAMENTO, CALIF. – Former American Idol contestant Corey Clark will not face criminal charges for a hotel food fight that got out of control. A spokeswoman for the district attorney's office said yesterday the decision not to pursue a misdemeanour battery count against Clark in the June 25 incident was made by a prosecutor who decided there was insufficient evidence. Clark, 24, would have faced up to six months in jail and a $1,000 fine. According to police, Clark and CDC Records company executive Laura Troy, 34, argued as they were eating a room-service breakfast at a Sacramento hotel. Clark threw food and dishes and grabbed Troy, causing red marks on her arms, police alleged. Police said Troy was unco-operative and did not want to press charges.

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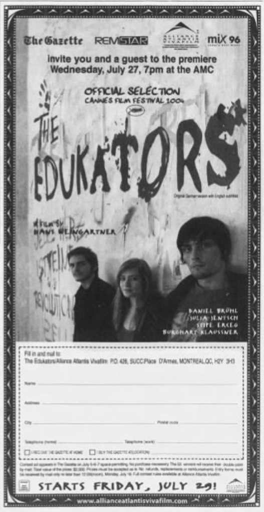

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